

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on July 18, 2006. Claims 1-11 and 13-17 are currently pending in the application, with claim 1 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended and claim 12 has been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application, namely claims 1-11 and 13-17, are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new subject matter, and are patentable over the prior art.

Objections to the Specification

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to because of various informalities. In particular, the abbreviation use of "OHT" in paragraphs 0021 and 0023 was not defined. Moreover, paragraph 0024, line 1, incorrectly identifies Fig. 1. By the present Amendment, paragraph 0021 has been amended to remove the recitation "OHT vehicle" and to add the recitation "overhead transport vehicle (hereinafter OHT vehicle)," for defining the abbreviation "OHT." In addition, paragraph 26 has been amended to remove the recitation "FIG. 1," and to include "FIG. 3." It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification do not constitute new matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. In particular, the Examiner indicated that there is no antecedent basis for the recitation "said extended conductor" in line 1 and "said antenna" in line 3 of claim 5. In

addition, with regards to claim 8, the Examiner found no antecedent basis in the claim for the recitation “said congested location” in line 4 of the claim..

The Applicants have amended claims 5 and 8 in a manner believed to overcome Examiner’s objection. In particular, claim 5 was amended to, *inter alia*, remove the recitation “in which said” and to include the recitation “further comprising an.” Claim 8 was amended to remove the recitation “said congested” and to include the recitation “a congested.” Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,109,568 to Gilbert et al. (hereinafter “Gilbert”).

Claim 1

Independent claim 1 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the rejection. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of canceled claim 12. It is respectfully submitted that the recitations of amended claim 1 is patentable over Gilbert.

Gilbert is directed to an automated electrified monorail system 100 having a monorail 20, a vehicle 10 and a system controller 20. See FIG. 1. Movement of vehicle 10 is controlled through a wireless radio-frequency Ethernet network which contains the system controller 20 and the remove controller 70. See FIG. 1 and Column 4, lines 33-47.

Gilbert fails to disclose or suggest the recited “means for traveling in both a first direction along said path and along a second direction opposite said first direction, thereby permitting bi-directional travel” of independent claim 1, as conceded by the Examiner in the Office Action with respect to Claim 12. In contrast, the system 100 described in Gilbert merely

permits vehicle 10 to travel in one direction only. Moreover, nowhere does Gilbert disclose or suggest a system “permitting bi-directional travel.”

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Gilbert. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to this claim is respectfully requested and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2-4, 8, 9, 11 and 13 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given hereinabove for independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6, 7, 10 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert. Claim 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,690,328 to Judd. Claim 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,341,985 to Houskamp (hereinafter “Houskamp”).

Claims 5, 6, 7, 10 and 14-17

With respect to dependent claims 5, 6, 7, 10 and 14-17, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6, 7, 10 and 14-17 are patentable for at least the reasons that independent claim 1 is patentable, as discussed hereinabove. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Claim 12

With respect to claim 12, by the present Amendment, the Applicants have canceled claim 12, without prejudice. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 12 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 1-11 and 13-17 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,

/Rosa Suazo/
Rosa Suazo
Reg. No. 56,753
Attorney for Applicants
Phone: (845) 892-9701

International Business Machines Corporation

D/18G, B/321, Zip 482
2070 Route 52
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
Phone: (845) 892-9701
Fax: (845) 892-6363